

Message Text

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SUBJ: REMARKS AT PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE REMARKS WHICH
I MADE TO PRESIDENT BORDABERRY IN SPANISH UPON PRESENTING
MY CREDENTIALS ON SEPTEMBER 25:

"MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE HONOR TODAY TO PRESENT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
THE MOST CORDIAL GREETINGS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, RICHARD M. NIXON, WHO CHERISHES FOND
MEMORIES OF HIS VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS WARM HOSPI-
TALITY. I ALSO BEAR THE AFFECTION AND RESPECT OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE PEOPLE OF
THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

I CONSIDER THAT I HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY HONORED,
MR. PRESIDENT, TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO REPRESENT MY
GOVERNMENT IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AND FAVORED COUNTRY. I HAVE
ALSO HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS TO KNOW A
NUMBER OF ITS DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS. THUS, PERSONALLY
AND OFFICIALLY, I HAVE EVERY INTENTION TO WORK AS HARD

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AS I CAN TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE TRADITIONAL BONDS OF
FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAVE ALWAYS UNITED US.

RECENTLY SPEAKING IN BOGOTA, EX-SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM ROGERS SAID THAT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS BASED ON RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EACH NATION AND THAT THE CONDUCT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH EACH STATE SHALL BE ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY. DURING MY MISSION HERE IT SHALL BE MY ENDEAVOR ALWAYS THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MY GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OVER WHICH YOUR EXCELLENCY PRESIDES SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER BEFITTING FRIENDS AND EQUALS.

MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS INDEED AN HONOR TO REPRESENT MY PRESIDENT, THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY KISSINGER, AND MY COUNTRY BEFORE YOU AND THE GREAT ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY."

2. SPEAKING WITHOUT A TEXT BUT WITH OVBIOUS PREPARATION, THE PRESIDENT FIRST EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE LETTER PRESENTED TO HIM AND WELCOMED ME TO URUGUAY HE FOLLOWED BY ASKING ME TO SEND HIS GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT NIXON, ALONG WITH HIS BEST WISHES FOR THE PREOSPERITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PEOPLE. REFERRING TO OUR COMMON HISTORICAL TRADITIONS, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT URUGUAY WAS MAKING AN ENORMOUS EFFORT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LEVELS OF ITS PEOPLE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE NATION'S ABILITIES AND FAITH IN ITS VALUES. URUGUAYANS, HE SAID, ARE OPPOSED TO THE USE OF VIOLENCE AS A PRETEXT TO CHANGE THEIR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID HIS COUNTRY IS LIVING THROUGH A HISTORICAL TIME OF TRIAL. ABOVE ALL, HE ASKED FROM ME, COMPREHENSION AND UNDERSTANDNG OF THE TRUE SENTIMENTS OF THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE.

3. IN MY PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE ACTING FONMINISTER, THE PRESIDENT WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL. HE EMPHASIZED HIS CONCERN THAT URUGUAY, THE VICTIM OF AN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CONSPIRACY IN RECENT YEARS, HAS SUFFERED GRIEVOUSLY BECUASE OF THIS, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE WELL-BEING OF ITS PEOPLE
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BUT ALSO AS TO ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO CORRECT THESE EVILS HAVING IN MIND ALWAYS ITS FIEDLITY TO BASIC IDEALS WHICH IT SHARES WITH THE US AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL LIBERTIES AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENS. HE HOPED FOR GOOD RESULTS IN HIS EFFORTS TO CORRECT THE DAMAGE THAT HAD BEEN DONE TO URUGUAY AND ASKED FOR US UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN THIS NATIONAL EFFORT. I ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT THE ADMIRATION ABROAD FOR URUGUAY, PRECISELY BECAUSE OF ITS

PRINCIPLES, WOULD BE VERY HARD TO ERODE AND THAT THE US IS FOLLOWING

DEVELOPMENTS HERE WITH GREAT INTEREST AND WITH THE SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING WHICH BEFITS A TRUE FRIEND. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MY MISSION WOULD BE A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE ONE. FOR HIS PART THE ACTING FONMINISTER MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF THE OAS AND HOPED THAT URUGUAY AND THE US COULD WORK CLOSELY IN A COMMON EFFORT TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THIS ORGANIZATION. IN THIS HE ECHOED THE VIEWS MENTIONED TO ME DURING MY CALL ON FONMINISTER BLANCO LAST WEEK. I REPLIED THAT THIS MISSION, AS WELL AS US REPRESENTATIVES AT THE SITE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND CONFERENCES, WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO CONSULT WITH URUGUAY AND PLEASED IF WE COULD HAVE PARALLEL APPROACHES. I ASSURED HIM THAT THE US HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR THE UTILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES. WE THEREFORE WISHED TO CONTINUE IN IT AND TO WORK WITH OTHER MEMBERS TO IMPROVE AND MODERNIZE IT WHERE THIS SHOULD BE NECESSARY.

4. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY IN THE PALACE I PROCEEDED WITH THE MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND THE MILITARY AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT TO PLACE A WREATH AT THE JOSE ARTIGAS MONUMENT. THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE BUT FRIENDLY AND CURIOUS CROWD IN THE PLAZA AND AT THE END OF THE BUGLE CALL WHICH TERMINATED THE CEREMONY, THERE WAS POLITE APPLAUSE. THE CROWD THEN PRESSED AROUND IN A VERY FRIENDLY MANNER TO HEAR WHAT THEY COULD OF MY REMARKS TO THE PRESS IN A CONFERENCE WHICH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED. EXCEPT FOR A COUP OF SLIGHTLY TWISTED QUESTIONS THE PRESS WAS FRIENDLY. I ANSWERED THEIR QUESTIONS FREELY AND STRESSED MY KEEN INTEREST IN HAVING A CLOSE AND FRANK RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA WHICH PERFORM THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF INFORMING THE PEOPLE
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